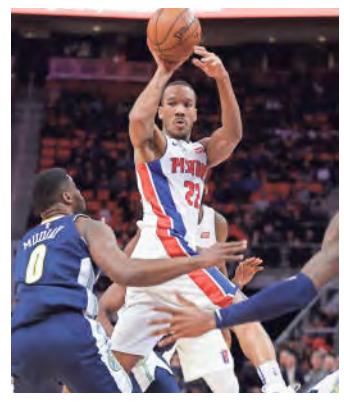
Yankees could make an offer for Fulmer too good to refuse

SPORTS, 1B



Pistons fall to Nuggets, losing streak hits 7 games

SPORTS, 6B

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Detroit Free Press

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2017 ▫ FREEP.COM

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‘False narrative’ on sandhill cranes?

Group cries fowl on DNR over push to hunt the birds

Keith Matheny Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

The photo is dramatic — a farmer’s tractor in a field, surrounded by hundreds of what appear to be sandhill cranes.

It was shown during a PowerPoint presentation by state Rep. James Lower, during an Oct. 4 House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee meeting, as Lower made the case for his House resolution urging the state Natural Resources Commission to work toward sandhill crane hunting in Michigan.

“This slide shows a little bit of the damage they can do,” said Lower, a Republican from Cedar Lake. “As you can see (in) the picture there with the tractor; that’s a field that has literally thousands of these birds in it. And that’s a farmer trying to grow some crops there, and the birds are creating a big issue.”

Lower’s resolution was passed out of the committee, and eventually adopted by the full House.

Voracious sandhill cranes devouring Michigan fields? No, Eurasian cranes in Israel. USDA

But the photo actually was from a farm in Israel. It showed Eurasian cranes; not sandhill cranes. And the tractor in the photo was there to feed the swarming flock of birds.

That, as well as statements and actions by Michigan Department of Natural Resources officials in the push for a sandhill crane hunt, have the head of a nonprofit group opposed to the proposed hunting of the birds crying foul.

“There’s a false narrative being created, to create a problem that has a solution already,”

See CRANE HUNT, Page 10A

METRO, 4A

Get ready for a blast of winter

The first major snow storm of the season could bring up to 7 inches of snow.

BUSINESS, 6A

Use your phone to get car loans

New app allows shoppers to qualify for loans before going to the dealership.

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Amid dancing dreidls, Hanukkah 2017 begins

A giant menorah illuminated the night sky Tuesday in downtown Detroit during the seventh annual Menorah in the D celebrating the first night of Hanukkah. Crowds packed Campus Martius to take part in the revelry, which also included speakers, live performances, kosher food offerings and fun family-friendly activities. Above: Abraham Weingarten of Flint takes a selfie with friends. Right: The menorah is lit. Menorah in the D is hosted by The Shul of West Bloomfield with NextGen and Chabad in the D, and co-sponsored by Quicken Loans.

PHOTOS BY RYAN GARZA / DETROIT FREE PRESS

Normal is a no-show in Alabama election

Nicole Gaudiano
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – You know it’s an unusual election when the only predictable element is the GOP’s Roy Moore riding to the polls on a horse.

Six months ago, the race to replace former Sen. Jeff Sessions was supposed to be a snoozer. After Sessions left to become President Donald Trump’s attorney general, the Alabama governor appointed the affable state Attorney General Luther Strange to fill the Senate seat. It was assumed Strange would go on to win the special election and go on to a long Senate career in one of the safest Republican states in the nation.

None of it played out that way.

See ALABAMA, Page 10A

Results at Freep.com

▫ This race was not called by press time. Go online for updated coverage.

DETROIT AUTO SHOW

Self-drive vehicles, technology take stage

Annual Cobo spectacle will feature 40 vehicle debuts

Greg Gardner Detroit Free Press
USA TODAY NETWORK

January’s Detroit auto show will feature “the entire automotive ecosystem,” from the unveiling of the new Rolls Royce Phantom and a Blackberry cybersecurity product to the Saudi national oil company’s first appearance at the show and a keynote from the U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao.

The North American International Auto Show, with media and industry days the week of Jan. 14 and opening to the public Jan. 20, should have about 40 global or North American vehicle debuts, Rod Alberts, executive director of the show, told the Free Press on Tuesday. He said that number could rise in the next few weeks.

At least one automaker will hold a product unveiling Saturday evening, Jan. 13, at an as-yet-to-be disclosed location.

If you want to check out the highest of the high-end ultra luxury cars, the show’s first event will be the Gallery on Saturday on the floor of Cobo Center.

This year’s Gallery event, which requires a $250 ticket for admission, moves to Cobo from the MGM Grand. One of the featured attractions will be the North American debut of the Rolls-Royce Phantom. Tickets can be purchased through the NAIAS website (https://naias.com). A separate, closed event will be held for invited high rollers with American Express Centurion cards.

On Sunday, Chao will deliver the keynote address to open AutoMobili-D, an exhibition showcasing a variety of technologies related to self-driving cars. Chao is in her second Cabinet-level post. She was secretary of labor under George W. Bush, and is married to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

See AUTO SHOW, Page 10A